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Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 25 of Security Council resolution 2358 (2017) and paragraph 44 of resolution 2297 (2016). It provides information on the implementation of those resolutions, including on the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and challenges faced by the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) in carrying out its mandate. It covers major developments in Somalia during the period from 1 May to 22 August 2017.

II. Political and security overview

A. Political developments

2. The Federal Government of Somalia continued to capitalize on the opportunity created by the February 2017 election of Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo" as President and the subsequent formation of a new cabinet under the Prime Minister, Hassan Ali Kheyre. Encouraging steps were taken to strengthen relations with the federal member states. On 6 June, President Farmajo visited Kismaayo, where he promised to pay regular salaries to the Somali national army and Darawish forces in Jubaland. The Federal Cabinet plans to hold meetings in the regional capitals, the first of which took place in Kismaayo on 12 July.

3. The new Government continues to confront several challenges, including drought response and security. The new Government intends to remain on good terms with all its partners and is concerned that a crisis in the wider region might have far-reaching consequences on the stability of Somalia. It therefore opted to remain neutral in the Gulf crisis of June 2017.

4. In remarks on the fifty-seventh anniversaries of independence (26 June) and of unity between southern Somalia and "Somaliland" (1 July), President Farmajo expressed interest in resuming talks with "Somaliland". The "Somaliland" Administration has called for a resumption of the stalled talks but rejected the call for unity.

5. On 18 May, the Speaker of the House of the People, Mohamed Osman Jawari, outlined the key priorities of the tenth Parliament, which included enactment of quality legislation, constitutional review, conflict resolution and reconciliation. Parliament resumed on 8 July for its second session, which is expected to last for

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eight weeks. During the session, it should enact critical legislation, including on the electoral law and anti-corruption. On 22 August, the Upper House of the Federal Parliament passed the law regulating telecommunications, following its passage in the House of the People on 9 August. This represents an important step towards establishing a new source of federal revenue.

6. Significant progress was made in kick-starting the next phase of the constitutional review process. A Joint Constitutional Review Parliamentary Committee was established in April and the Federal Minister of Constitutional Affairs held broad consultations with counterparts from federal member states and civil society on key issues. On 19 May, the Federal Minister of Constitutional Affairs presented a preliminary comprehensive master plan to the international community to complete the review within two years.

7. Significant work lies ahead to deepen federalism, including reaching a political agreement on the division of powers between the Federal Government and federal member states, the allocation of revenue and the management of natural resources, and defining the pending status of the Banadir region, in which Mogadishu is located.

8. Relations between the executive and legislative branches in some federal member states remain fraught with challenges. On 14 August, the HirShabelle State Assembly voted to remove the President of the HirShabelle Interim Administration, Ali Abdullahi Osoble, citing poor performance and lack of consultation with the Assembly. President Osoble insisted, however, that he remain President given that the vote was not carried out in accordance with the state constitution. On 28 May, the Jubaland Regional Assembly expelled two members who had accused the President of Jubaland, Sheikh Ahmed Islam "Madobe" of corruption, human rights abuses and suppression of the freedoms of expression, association and assembly. On 17 May, citing procedural grounds, the Speaker of the Puntland Regional Assembly rejected a proposal by the President of Puntland, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali "Gaas", to enlarge the Assembly in response to demands from clans complaining about underrepresentation.

9. Reconciliation efforts in Galmudug have yielded mixed results. On 3 May, the Galmudug State Assembly elected Ahmed Duale Geele "Xaaf" as State President. The attendance of the President of Puntland at the inauguration warmed relations between the two administrations, which resulted in some progress in the implementation of agreements to resolve the conflict in Gaalkacyo. Following failed negotiations in April between the Federal Government and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a (ASWJ) on power-sharing in Galmudug, President Xaaf initiated informal contacts with ASWJ and various communities to prepare for reconciliation and unification between his administration and ASWJ in Dhuusamarreeb. However, formal negotiations have yet to start and inter-clan conflicts in Heraale, Galguduud region, could also potentially delay a final settlement.

10. In preparation for presidential elections scheduled for November 2017, the parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2019 and House of Elders (guurti) elections scheduled for April 2020, the "Somaliland" National Electoral Commission concluded voter card distribution in the Awdal and Saahil regions in May. Another distribution phase commenced in the Togdheer and Maroodijeex regions on 8 July. Although President Farmajo officially complained about the Berbera port agreement between the "Somaliland" Administration and a company based in the United Arab Emirates, in April a high-level delegation from the United Arab Emirates attended the Berbera port inauguration on 11 May.

B. Security developments

11. The security situation in Mogadishu remains volatile notwithstanding some improvements as a result of initiatives taken by the Federal Government in conjunction with the Banadir Regional Administration. In particular, the formation of a Mogadishu stabilization force led to a decrease in the number of Al-Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu during and after Ramadan compared with previous years: from 269 in 2015 and 255 in 2016 to 208 in 2017. However, notwithstanding the decline in overall security incidents during Ramadan, a higher number of casualties from attacks involving vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices was recorded compared with 2016. The effectiveness of the ongoing stabilization operations in Mogadishu has compelled Al-Shabaab to rely increasingly on improvised explosive devices, which are a major concern, not least because of their impact on civilians. Incidents on 8, 15 and 17 May involving explosive-laden vehicles killed at least 11 people and injured many more. On 20 June, an explosive-laden minibus detonated at the entrance gate of the Wadajir District Commission, causing 17 deaths and 30 injuries. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility. On 22 June, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in front of a police station, followed by a secondary explosion targeting first responders, resulting in several deaths and injuries. On 12 June and 4 July, a total of nine mortar shells targeted the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) bases at Mogadishu Stadium and Villa Somalia, killing one soldier and injuring two others.

12. Galmudug and HirShabelle saw increased volatility owing to clan conflicts, political tensions and Al-Shabaab activities. On 12 May, seven people were killed in a land dispute near Dhuusamarreeb, Galguduud region. On 11 May, one civilian was injured after Al-Shabaab fighters ambushed an Ethiopian military convoy returning from Halgen to Beledweyne in the Hiraan region. On 18 May, Al-Shabaab attacked Ethiopian positions in Halgen. On 28 May, four persons were killed and seven others injured after an armed man opened gunfire indiscriminately at a food distribution site in Caabudwaaq, Galguduud region. On 7 June, an AMISOM defensive base in the Mahaday district, Shabelle Dhexe region, came under heavy fire by Al-Shabaab.

13. Al-Shabaab guerrilla warfare continued in rural areas of central and southern Somalia. Attacks on Somali and AMISOM forces along logistics routes were regularly reported. In a significant incident, Al-Shabaab ambushed soldiers from the Ugandan contingent of AMISOM as they were patrolling the main road between Mogadishu and Baraawe in the Shabelle Hoose region. In that incident, several Ugandan soldiers were killed and several were injured. Joint military operations by Somali security forces and AMISOM, supported by the United States of America, against Al-Shabaab bases were also reported, including a brief takeover of Barrire and Janaale settlements, before these were retaken by Al-Shabaab.

14. In a significant development, the former Al-Shabaab leader Mukhtar Robow Abu Mansoor defected to the Federal Government on 13 August. Robow separated from Al-Shabaab in 2013 and was subsequently targeted by the group.

15. Puntland witnessed renewed armed conflict. Aerial and ground offensives against Al-Shabaab hideouts took place in the Galgalo Mountains. On 8 June, Al-Shabaab fighters killed at least 70 Puntland security force soldiers at a military base in Af-Urur camp near Boosaaso, making it the most lethal Al-Shabaab attack in Puntland since 2010. In addition, the splinter group professing allegiance to pro-Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters also continued its activities near Qandala. On 24 June, pro-ISIL fighters clashed with Darawish soldiers about 40 kilometres southwest of Qandala, resulting in the deaths of one Darawish soldier and one pro-ISIL fighter.

III. Support for peacebuilding and state-building efforts

A. Inclusive politics

16. The Conference on Somalia, held in London on 11 May, generated renewed momentum for key political processes. With respect to the constitutional review, the Conference welcomed the commitment of the Federal Government and federal member states to work closely with Parliament to take the process forward, building on the work already undertaken.

17. The federal and state ministers of constitutional affairs met in Mogadishu from 14 to 16 May as part of the ongoing consultations of the Federal Ministry of Constitutional Affairs with Somali stakeholders on the constitutional review. Preparations are under way for a national consultative constitutional conference, at which the master plan for the review is to be endorsed by key stakeholders.

18. UNSOM held extensive consultations with Mogadishu-based community leaders to seek their views on the process to determine the final status of Mogadishu. While calling for an inclusive process, interlocutors insisted on the need for Mogadishu to have its own institutions (including a president and a regional assembly) similar to those of existing federal member states, and for political participation and representation in future public institutions to be open to everyone who lives in Mogadishu. The clan elders requested that United Nations entities continue their support for broad consultations on the final status of Mogadishu.

B. Support for universal elections

19. At the London Conference on Somalia, the Federal Government committed to holding universal elections in 2021 and to developing the electoral law by the end of 2018.

20. In line with those commitments, the National Independent Electoral Commission finalized its strategic plan, 2017-2021, which outlines how it intends to deliver its mandate, including details of the electoral operations to be undertaken as well as a timeline for a constitutional referendum and universal elections. The Commission is now seeking funding for implementation from the Federal Government and donors. In May, the Commission opened its political party registration office and, in July, it hosted an international workshop on party registration, which brought together Arab and African electoral management bodies. The workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Commission to register political parties and benefited from technical and financial support from the Arab Organization for Electoral Management Bodies, as well as from the UNSOM Integrated Electoral Support Group.

21. In August, the National Independent Electoral Commission launched the first lexicon of electoral terminology in Somali, developed with the support of the Integrated Electoral Support Group. The lexicon provides a common and precise linguistic framework for electoral training, voter and civic education programmes and drafting of electoral legislation. Also in August, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank and Terra Incognita released a feasibility study on options for the launch of a national identification programme. That study described the structure that would best support a sustainable identification system for Somalia in the longer term and could possibly serve voter identification requirements for elections beyond 2021.

22. A United Nations electoral needs assessment mission took place in the first quarter of 2017. It concluded that the holding of universal elections in 2021 would be determined in large part by a steady improvement of the security situation and the development of a national election administration structure, which would necessitate the establishment of a national independent electoral commission presence at the state levels and the appointment of a constitutional court and other judiciary branches, as well as the creation of a dispute mechanism within the national independent electoral commission to adjudicate electoral disputes. Timely completion of the constitutional review and adoption of the electoral legal framework, along with adequate and predictable funding for the Commission, would also be of key importance.

C. Prevention and resolution of conflict

23. The Federal Government hosted a national consultative conference in Mogadishu from 13 to 17 June to map out existing conflicts and identify reconciliation needs and capacities. On this basis, the Government is preparing a report setting out priorities, a short-term road map on addressing immediate internal conflicts and a comprehensive, long-term national strategy.

24. A lack of agreement on jurisdictional and financial issues continued to mar relations between federal and state authorities. The refusal by the Federal Government to allow the use of airports in HirShabelle and its development of the El Maan seaport, owing to the likelihood of their adverse impact on Federal Government revenues, continued to strain relations with the HirShabelle Interim Administration. No consensus has been reached between federal and state entities on the division of revenues generated from fishing.

25. Tensions over access to water and grazing lands escalated during the reporting period owing to uneven rainfall across the regions. A series of killings in Gaalkacyo prompted the formation of a joint ceasefire committee, which included ministers from both Puntland and Galmudug. On 22 June, the committee reached an agreement to promote peaceful coexistence. In Banyaley, Hiraan region, at least 50 persons were killed in clashes over water and grazing rights in June, before engagement by the HirShabelle Interim Administration with clan elders resulted in a ceasefire agreement.

26. The leader of the self-proclaimed "Khatumo State", Ali Khalif Galayd, initiated peace talks with the "Somaliland" Administration. In June, Khatumo representatives offered to join "Somaliland" on the condition that the latter agreed to review its power-sharing structure and constitution to accommodate Khatumo interests. Meanwhile, on 24 July, the "Somaliland" Administration appointed Adna Adan Ismail, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of "Somaliland", as Special Envoy to the talks between "Somaliland" and Somalia.

D. Rule of law and security institutions

1. Security sector assistance and reform

27. The security pact agreed between Somalia and international partners in London on 11 May, together with the agreement on the national security architecture, provide the parameters for building viable Somali security institutions and implementing effective security sector reform. This will allow Somalis to gradually assume primary responsibility for security from AMISOM, as part of a conditions-based transition.

28. Follow-up work is under way on implementing the national security architecture, while additional political discussions are required to obtain full buy-in of all relevant actors and institutions and to address outstanding issues, including: (a) the number and composition of security institutions at the federal and state levels; (b) governance, oversight and accountability mechanisms; (c) coordination and cooperation arrangements among the various federal and sub-federal institutions; (d) overall affordability of the security sector; (e) the processes for the integration of regional forces; and (f) right-sizing serving personnel.

29. From 5 to 10 July, the National Security Council met and agreed to incorporate the recommendations of the Defence and Security Committee of the Federal Parliament on command and control of the national security architecture. It also decided to establish a task force that would work on completing the structure of the national security institutions.

30. Robust Somali ownership of the national security architecture implementation process was demonstrated through the establishment of Somali-led mechanisms, as part of the comprehensive approach to security, aimed at enabling more coherent donor support and more effective planning and delivery structures. An implementation architecture for the comprehensive approach to security, with government co-leadership in all areas, is being discussed by the Federal Government, the United Nations, the African Union and international partners.

31. As part of the comprehensive approach to security, UNSOM is supporting the National Security Office and the secretariat of the National Security Council by building capacity in civilian oversight, finance, integration/demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, weapons and ammunition management, and maritime security.

32. The African Union-United Nations joint review of AMISOM identified the operational readiness assessment of the Somali national army as a prerequisite to determine its current capacity and capabilities, as well as an opportunity to identify future gaps for the transition of responsibility for security from AMISOM to the national army. With the support of the United Nations, the African Union and international partners, the Ministry of Defence and the national army are taking the lead in the exercise, which is expected to start in August and be completed before December.

33. UNSOS continued the delivery of its non-lethal support package to 10,164 registered troops of the Somali national army participating in joint operations with AMISOM in 17 different locations. During the reporting period, the Head of UNSOS met twice with the Commander of the national army to discuss how to improve support, especially with respect to the avoidance of costly air delivery of rations and better accounting for the provision of fuel. The United Nations trust fund in support of the Somali national army currently has a balance of approximately $5 million, which is sufficient to support non-lethal operations for another three months.

2. Police

34. The UNSOM Police Section continued to support implementation of the new policing model through the technical committees in each federal member state. State-specific plans will be developed to outline the organization of the state police forces and their responsibilities and address related administrative and logistical issues. Efforts are under way to establish a federal police technical committee and a joint technical committee to be led by the Ministry of Internal Security.

35. The UNSOM Police Section, reinforced by the Standing Police Capacity, continued to support the Gaalkacyo Ceasefire Team Advisory Group. In July and August, UNSOM and AMISOM police facilitated a joint training for 100 police officers from Puntland and Galmudug aimed at preparing the officers for joint police patrols in Gaalkacyo under common command.

3. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

36. Under the National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Fighters, UNSOM continued to support the Federal Government in strengthening coordination mechanisms with partners and donors. Efforts are ongoing to harmonize implementation of the following phases of the Programme: outreach, reception, screening, rehabilitation and reintegration. UNSOM organized a workshop to review the National Intelligence and Security Agency screening procedures for disengaged combatants and to strengthen the Agency's capacity in that regard.

37. Four rehabilitation transition centres for disengaged Al-Shabaab fighters operate in Baidoa, Beledweyne, Kismaayo and Mogadishu. The Kismaayo centre became operational in June with the admission of the first group of 26 disengaged Al-Shabaab fighters. By the end of July, the Baidoa centre was supporting 148 beneficiaries, and an additional 70 had entered the reintegration phase. Both centres are run by IOM and funded by Germany. The centre in Mogadishu, which is supported by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, currently has 65 beneficiaries. Owing to a lack of funds, only 11 beneficiaries remain in the centre run by the Federal Government in Beledweyne. The Government has requested international support to enhance the capacity of the centre, which could encourage further defections.

38. On 10 June, UNSOM launched a weekly radio campaign to encourage defections by young males in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismaayo who are vulnerable to Al-Shabaab recruitment.

4. Maritime security

39. The National Maritime Coordination Committee met on 28 June to align the maritime domain with the national security architecture agreement and submitted a proposal to place the coast guard under the Ministry of Internal Security.

40. While six hijacking incidents were reported in March and April 2017, illustrating that the piracy networks had retained their capability, no major piracy incidents occurred during the current reporting period. UNSOM is assisting the National Security Office to build a system to map and establish coordination centres for incidents at sea.

5. Mine action

41. The United Nations Mine Action Service provided refresher training to the explosive ordnance disposal teams of the Jubaland state police in Kismaayo and the federal police in Mogadishu, including training of the latter in handling explosive detection dogs. In Mogadishu, police explosive ordnance disposal teams trained by the Service responded to 21 incidents involving improvised explosive devices, for which they conducted post-blast investigations.

42. UNSOM, the United Nations Mine Action Service and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research assisted the Federal Government in the fourth national weapons ammunition management consultation process, held from 18 to 20 June. The Federal Government agreed to establish a commission on weapons

ammunition management and to expand the second phase of physical security and stockpile management to all federal member states for the period 2017-2020.

6. Justice and corrections

43. The Federal Minister of Justice continued to consult with the state ministers of justice in order to reach a political agreement on the proposed justice and corrections model for Somalia.

44. The first comprehensive training curriculum for judges, prosecutors and court clerks was launched in Mogadishu on 17 July to lay the groundwork for an independent, capable and accountable judiciary. As part of the programme, 350 court personnel from all over Somalia will be trained by the end of 2017.

45. The Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations is developing phase II of the Somalia Joint Rule of Law Programme for the period 2018-2021, which is aimed at supporting the Federal Government in strengthening the rule of law throughout the country and implementing the security pact.

E. Human rights and protection

1. Human rights

46. A total of 582 civilian casualties were recorded during the reporting period, half of which (265 causalities) were caused by incidents perpetrated by Al-Shabaab. Twelve casualties are attributed to AMISOM and 41 to incidents involving state security forces.

47. Competition over resources depleted by the drought intensified clan conflicts, resulting in 175 civilian casualties, compared with 77 in the previous reporting period. The majority were the result of conflicts between Gaaljecel and Jejele clan militias in HirShabelle and between the Duduble and Cayr clans in the Galguduud region.

48. Twelve targeted assassinations of participants in the 2016 electoral process were recorded. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for four of them and seven were attributed to unknown assailants. In one incident, the Federal Minister of Public Works, Abbas Abdullahi Sheikh Siraji, was shot and killed by security personnel on 3 May.

49. Sixteen airstrikes were documented, including eight in Gedo, four in Shabelle Hoose, three in Juba Hoose and one in Somaliland, resulting in 18 civilian casualties and a significant loss of livestock and property.

50. Nine executions were carried out following death penalty convictions, accounting for almost half of the executions reported in all of 2016. Half of the executions that have taken place thus far in 2017 were in Puntland, and convictions were related to terrorism activities. Three prisoners reportedly died while in custody owing to poor detention conditions and lack of medical care.

51. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia conducted a 10-day visit to Mogadishu, Garoowe and Hargeya in May. He met with representatives of UNSOM, AMISOM, the Federal Government and civil society organizations and urged continued support towards reforming the police, the judiciary and other rule of law institutions to ensure better compliance with human rights standards. He also encouraged authorities to address sexual violence cases and the rehabilitation of juveniles arrested and accused of being affiliated with Al-Shabaab.

52. There was progress on the establishment of the independent human rights commission by the interim technical selection panel, which convened in Mogadishu on 9 July. In addition, a total of 134 detainees charged with minor crimes in Mogadishu and Puntland were pardoned on the occasions of Ramadan and the independence day of Somalia.

2. Compliance with the human rights due diligence policy

53. The United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy Task Force approved the risk assessment for United Nations support for the integration of the 3,000 Puntland defence forces into the Somali national army. The mitigation measures have been communicated to the Federal Government, the Puntland authorities and donors interested in providing support to inform them of requirements under the policy and to reiterate the importance of compliance. UNSOM has proposed the creation of a working group to assist the Federal Government in engaging on human rights due diligence issues. The African Union and the United Nations Joint Working Group on Human Rights Due Diligence Policy reviewed the implementation status for prevention and mitigation measures and measures to respond to violations, including strengthening accountability through boards of inquiry and increasing the capacity of the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell.

3. Child protection

54. All of the children associated with Al-Shabaab who were captured in Puntland in March 2016 have been released. However, the prison sentences of 40 of the children, who are now at a rehabilitation centre in Garoowe, have yet to be rescinded. UNSOM and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to urge the Puntland Administration to allow their reintegration in locations closer to their areas of origin.

55. The Somalia country task force on monitoring and reporting verified 245 incidents of grave violations affecting 485 children (124 girls and 361 boys). Al-Shabaab is expanding its recruitment campaign in Galmudug by compelling children to attend Al-Shabaab-managed madrasas reportedly used to indoctrinate and train them as fighters. In several instances, elders, imams and teachers who failed to hand over children were abducted.

56. From 3 to 6 May, UNSOM and UNICEF trained National Intelligence and Security Agency screening officers on the reception and handover to child protection actors of children formerly associated with armed groups. On 18 and 19 May, United Nations entities supported a joint mission to screen 235 members of the South-West special police force, which identified and separated two children from the force.

4. Prevention of sexual violence

57. Sexual violence remains a significant protection concern, mostly affecting displaced women and girls living in settlements for internally displaced persons. The settlements are easy targets for perpetrators of sexual violence because there is limited physical and police protection. A total of 71 cases of sexual violence were reported, of which 67 involved girls. Between May and June, the members of the gender-based violence subcluster conducted prevention activities that reached a total of 2,041 girls, 1,792 boys, 4,860 women and 1,927 men.

58. UNDP, in coordination with UNSOM, conducted a workshop for 50 South-West state police officers on human rights, the role of police in protecting civilians, access to legal aid, and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. In

Puntland, 25 police investigators, prosecutors and judges were trained in investigating crimes related to sexual and gender-based violence. The United Nations Population Fund supported the establishment of the first forensic laboratory in Somalia for collecting evidence relevant to obtaining justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

F. Development coordination and recovery

59. The gross domestic product growth in Somalia remains urban-based, consumption-driven and fuelled by donor support and remittances from the diaspora. The implementation of the national development plan faces challenges, as the fiscal situation and management of Somalia remain weak, hampering the ability of the Government to provide basic services. Meanwhile, the economic impact of the ongoing drought is substantial. The Federal Government requested the international community in June to increase budget support to cover salaries and other operational expenditures. Options are being explored with the Federal Government and donors to increase support for salaries through existing mechanisms financed through the World Bank multi-partner fund.

60. The New Partnership for Somalia for Peace, Stability and Prosperity was endorsed at the London Conference on 11 May. Building upon the partnership principles underlying the New Deal Compact, and encompassing a number of the political and socioeconomic priorities set out in the national development plan, the New Partnership agreement represents a solid arrangement for mutual accountability. The Federal Government, the United Nations and international partners are developing a monitoring framework to ensure oversight and adherence to agreed commitments in the New Partnership agreement, and have held a series of meetings to modify existing aid coordination structures to align them with the national development plan.

61. The Federal Government, federal member states and the international community are collectively working on an early recovery and resilience approach that builds on the national development plan, with both short- and long-term programmes to prevent cyclical drought and famine. In developing the approach, they will consider the opportunity of early returns of internally displaced persons and will also look at the possibility of major investment in both urban and rural infrastructure. Ongoing family-level resilience programmes will also be stepped up to enable communities to emerge from the drought and to support municipal authorities in managing increased drought- and conflict-induced urbanization.

62. An integrated UNSOM and United Nations country team initiative was developed to provide support to the Federal Government in its anti-corruption efforts, which included the drafting of a national anti-corruption strategy and legislation, public information and capacity-building activities and support in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

63. Civil society plays a key role in delivering services across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding spectrum in Somalia. However, its work is often hampered by inadequate regulatory frameworks, bureaucratic obstacles and inconsistencies in rules and regulations at different levels of government. In order to support the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework for non-governmental organizations, the Federal Government is working on new legislation to codify best practices, with the support of the United Nations and international partners and in close coordination with non-governmental organizations.

64. In late June, Al-Shabaab started to ban the use of Somali shillings in HirShabelle, Galmudug and Puntland. This reportedly followed the recent printing of new bank notes by the Puntland Administration to pay the salaries of its soldiers. Despite calls from local authorities to disregard the ban, businesses continue to avoid transactions in shillings, using the United States dollar or Ethiopian birr instead. The resulting devaluation of the shilling has adversely affected the livelihood of the people, who have limited access to the alternative currencies.

G. Cross-cutting issues

1. Community recovery

65. With support from the Peacebuilding Fund, United Nations entities supported Jubaland and the Interim South-West Administration in developing local government laws. The Interim South-West Administration and the Jubaland Regional Assembly passed local government laws on 5 June and 27 July respectively. The Interim South-West Administration launched its district council formation process in Baidoa on 11 July. Community recovery projects continued to be developed by Somali authorities in conjunction with the United Nations and international partners. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched early recovery activities, contributing $820,000 to help local authorities to deliver tangible dividends to communities and enable government outreach in the Kismaayo district in Jubaland. The Jubaland and South-West Administrations, with USAID support, launched eight community projects to rehabilitate infrastructure and community facilities in Baardhere and Dinsoor districts, with investments totalling $1.8 million.

66. United Nations entities supported the Jubaland authorities in establishing mobile courts and creating traditional dispute resolution and legal aid units in the Jubaland Ministry of Justice, Constitution and Religious Affairs. Similar efforts are being undertaken by the Interim South-West Administration. Community policing activities were conducted in Kismaayo and Baidoa to build trust between youth and the security forces. Technical and vocational curricula were developed, beneficiaries were selected and trainings were carried out.

2. Gender equality and women's empowerment

67. In May, United Nations entities facilitated a preparatory event in Mogadishu for the London Conference. The event, which was attended by civil society stakeholders, presented an opportunity for women leaders to engage in the preparatory process. Gender-mainstreaming was adopted as part of the security pact and the New Partnership agreement endorsed at the London Conference.

68. During June and July, UNSOM gathered women's experiences in local reconciliation and mediation in order to better support their engagement in those processes. In July, UNSOM conducted a needs assessment of civil society and female members of the Federal Parliament. A plan is being developed to strengthen the mediation and reconciliation capacity of women leaders.

69. In July, UNDP facilitated a lessons learned forum on women's representation in the 2016 electoral process, which will inform strategies for enhancing women's political participation and representation in the 2021 elections. Notwithstanding the gains in women's representation during the 2016 electoral process, their political participation remains limited.

3. Youth empowerment

70. In line with the national development plan and the emphasis of the Federal Government on job creation and education for youth, the needs and aspirations of Somali youth have been mainstreamed throughout the new United Nations Strategic Framework for Somalia for 2017 to 2020. The youth coordination meetings held in different regions have become important platforms for increasing coordination between federal and state authorities, international partners and local youth civil society organizations. The meetings enable stakeholders to map interventions in different regions and identify gaps and overlaps in programming. The United Nations currently has 18 youth-specific programmes in which it has invested $28 million. Seven of those programmes support technical, educational and vocational training to enhance youth employment.

4. Preventing and countering violent extremism

71. Somalia's national strategy and action plan for preventing and countering violent extremism was endorsed at the London Conference. UNSOM continued to provide strategic guidance to the Federal Government on operationalizing the strategy, emphasizing that in the implementation of the strategy and action plan, the protection of civilians, including children, from (forced) recruitment needs to be ensured. UNSOM established a monthly platform to facilitate a joint approach to the strategy and action plan in Somalia and share information on the efforts of the wider United Nations system and international partners. UNSOM is consulting with the newly established United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism on how it can best support UNSOM in the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

IV. Humanitarian situation

72 The *gu* rains (March to June) were late, short and below average in much of Somalia, resulting in an elevated risk of famine in some areas. The number of people in need of assistance increased to 6.7 million, including 3.2 million people that required urgent life-saving assistance. More than 766,000 people have been internally displaced since November 2016, with just over 7,000 people seeking refuge in Ethiopia and Kenya.

73. While the *gu* rains were near normal levels in Somaliland and parts of Puntland, they were, on average, 50 per cent below normal in the areas with the least rainfall. Food security is not expected to improve in some areas through the end of 2017. A further deterioration is anticipated in a few regions, including Galguduud, Gedo, Mudug, Shabelle Dhexe and Shabelle Hoose. Late rains provided respite in some areas, resulting in the recharge of water points, the regeneration of pastures, the improvement of livestock conditions and a hope of early recovery. However, owing to the impact of the prolonged drought, recovery is expected to take at least two consecutive seasons of good rainfall. Scaled-up support throughout the rest of 2017 will be essential to prevent increasing levels of food insecurity and protect livelihoods.

74. Acute malnutrition is rising; the number of acutely malnourished children could reach 1.4 million by the end of 2017, including 275,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition. Global acute malnutrition rates of up to 29 per cent (the emergency threshold is 15 per cent) have been reported among internally displaced persons. Nutrition partners had treated nearly 400,000 beneficiaries for acute malnutrition by the end of June. More than 173,000 children have been supported so that they may stay in school. The prolonged drought has exacerbated the massive acute watery

diarrhoea/cholera outbreak, with nearly 75,930 cases and 1,155 deaths reported by end of July. While efforts by the authorities and partners have contained the disease in most areas, the case-fatality rate of 1.5 per cent remains above the 1 per cent emergency threshold. Some 13,428 suspected measles cases have been reported.

75. Donors had provided $870.1 million as at 13 August, enabling a massive, scaled-up response. About 3 million people have been reached through food security interventions, many of them through cash programming. In order to address malnutrition and disease outbreaks, 225 nutrition centres and 104 acute watery diarrhoea/cholera treatment facilities were established. Some 3.5 million people have been provided with access to safe water in 2017 thus far. Over 18.5 million heads of livestock have been treated against diseases, benefiting 2.8 million people.

76. Under the revised 2017 humanitarian response plan, $1.5 billion is being sought in order to reach 5.5 million people in 2017. However, clusters have scaled back due to a lack of funding. These include clusters on water; sanitation and hygiene; education; providing children with a safe space and access to food and water, which is key to stopping acute watery diarrhoea/cholera; and interventions for women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence, which is especially relevant for internally displaced persons.

77. Humanitarian and development partners have engaged the private sector on drought response. The private sector played a critical role in stabilizing prices during the drought, directly contributing resources through the National Drought Committee, and improved people's access to food by moving commercial supplies to areas with the greatest need and those where humanitarian actors had access challenges due to insecurity. In addition, United Nations entities and the World Bank continued to support the engagement of the Federal Government with the private sector with the aim of increasing revenue generation.

78. Humanitarian operators faced an increase in attacks by non-state armed actors and increased violence at aid distribution sites. In June, over 90 violent incidents affected humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets; 4 humanitarian workers were killed, 9 were injured, 6 were arrested or placed in temporary detention and 13 were abducted. Three humanitarian workers were expelled by the authorities. Road access challenges, accompanied by illegal taxation and abuse of travellers, continue in many areas. During the second quarter of 2017, non-state armed actors intensified blockades in Diinsoor, Wajid and Xuddur in the Gedo and Bakool regions, which lie at the epicentre of the crisis, impacting the availability of key commodities.

V. Support to the African Union Mission in Somalia

79. The efforts of the United Nations Mine Action Service in mentoring, training and supporting joint operations helped AMISOM to identify and destroy 4 of the 22 improvised explosive devices encountered. In order to enhance the mobility threat analyses of the Mission, the Service also carried out 36 assessments of the main supply routes, covering 1,576 kilometres, to identify vulnerable points where improvised explosive devices could be placed.

80. While UNSOS continued to operationalize the mission enabling units to support the efforts by AMISOM to open main supply routes, benefiting from additional equipment donated by the United States and the mobility planning training for AMISOM troops in Mogadishu provided by the United Nations Mine Action Service, no further progress was reported following the previous successes achieved in Sectors 1 and 5. Because the troop-contributing countries decided to limit their patrolling owing to prevailing insecurity, progress in opening and

securing the routes was limited. UNSOS was therefore required to take measures to ensure that the contingent personnel continued to receive life support rations through sustained and unplanned resupply by air to many locations. In order to mitigate the impact of these demands on their planned activities, UNSOS and AMISOM have agreed on the importance of making the most effective use of available resources through a regular review of budgetary performance and major cost drivers to ensure that sustained logistical support to AMISOM remains consistent with operational priorities.

81. Negotiations over the tripartite memorandum of understanding between the African Union, the United Nations and AMISOM troop- and police-contributing countries concluded in June 2017. On 23 June, Uganda signed the new memorandum of understanding and on 7 July Ethiopia signed it. The remaining troop- and police-contributing countries are expected to sign in the coming months. The tripartite memorandum of understanding will enable troop- and police-contributing countries to seek reimbursement for equipment lost in hostile action since 2012.

82. In order to address water shortages in the AMISOM areas of operation, United Nations entities signed a letter of assist with Ethiopia on 17 May 2016 for the drilling of 30 water wells in Sectors 3 and 4 on a cost-reimbursable basis. Ethiopian troops deployed the equipment in Baidoa in June 2017, and drilling work commenced in August 2017.

83. In its resolution 2036 (2012), the Security Council authorized 12 military helicopters for AMISOM. The three helicopters deployed by Kenya in December 2016 remain its only air assets. Discussions are ongoing with other AMISOM troop-contributing countries on the deployment of additional military helicopters.

84. The AMISOM and Somali national army trust funds are at balances of less than $0.5 million and $5.0 million, respectively. That is sufficient to pay salaries for AMISOM consultants working in the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell for one year, and to provide logistics support to the Somali national army for three months.

VI. United Nations presence in Somalia

85. United Nations entities continue to be present in the following locations in Somalia: Hargeysa, Boosaasso, Garoowe, Gaalkacyo, Mogadishu, Beledweyne, Baidoa, Dollow and Kismaayo. The United Nations remains exposed to Al-Shabaab terrorist threats and clan violence in these locations, particularly in southern Somalia where most roads are inaccessible owing to the terrorist threat. This has severely limited the monitoring and implementation of projects and humanitarian programmes. In spite of these challenges, United Nations entities have worked hard to remain accessible to its Somali counterparts and to respond quickly to humanitarian and development needs.

86. The security risk levels for the AMISOM-protected area at Mogadishu International Airport have remained high since the last assessment in May 2017. UNSOS continues to implement recommended risk mitigation measures to improve safety and protection for all United Nations personnel within the airport. Similar projects are ongoing in Baidoa, Beledweyne and Kismaayo.

87. As at 11 August, there were 545 international and 1,164 national United Nations personnel deployed throughout Somalia. The staff ceiling in Mogadishu was raised from 485 to 525 to accommodate staff in transit and facilitate the humanitarian response in other regions. In response to the emergency drought

situation in Somalia, an increasing number of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operate and maintain a permanent presence of both international and national personnel outside of Mogadishu.

VII. Observations

88. Since assuming office, the Federal Government has shown a strong commitment to take on the vast challenges facing Somalia. At the Conference on Somalia, held in London on 11 May, I personally observed this commitment as well as the continued resolve of the international community to support Somalia. I commend the leadership of President "Farmajo", Prime Minister Kheyre and the federal member state leaders in that regard and urge all Somalis to work together to translate the renewed momentum into genuine and sustainable progress.

89. I welcome the security pact agreed in London between Somalia and its partners to develop a viable Somali security sector at the federal and state levels based on the national security architecture. The primary responsibility for security lies with the Somali authorities and institutions. I call on the federal and state leaders in Somalia to take the steps necessary to complete discussions on the details of the national security architecture through an inclusive process to achieve the full buy-in of all stakeholders. This will contribute to the State-building and peacebuilding efforts and will be an important opportunity to reinforce the national identity of the Somali national security forces. I also urge international partners to render, in a coordinated and timely manner, the support necessary to develop Somali security institutions and enable them to gradually take over security responsibility from AMISOM. In order to establish a credible baseline to inform this transition, the relevant Somali actors must, with the support of international partners, do their utmost to complete the operational readiness assessment on time. In the future, the assessment should include regional forces in addition to the Somali national army.

90. Building on the outcomes of the London Conference, the Federal Government and the Federal Parliament have taken important steps to advance the review of the provisional constitution, the cornerstone of a full-fledged federal Somalia. There is no time to lose for Somalis to address the difficult questions on the division of powers, revenues and resources between the federal and state governments. Regional actors, civil society and minority groups should be able to meaningfully engage in these discussions. A constitution that serves all segments of Somali society will require consensus-building, dialogue and reconciliation at all levels, including through the active participation of women. An electoral legislative framework and agreement on the electoral model are now also needed. The United Nations and international partners are engaging the Federal Parliament to promote the representation of women parliamentarians on the various legislative committees. However, without adequate funding for the constitutional review, other related political processes, including preparations for universal elections in 2021, could face delays. I call on donors to urgently provide the required support to take forward the constitutional review process. The relevant United Nations entities will continue to provide their support through good offices, the facilitation of political dialogue and technical advice.

91. I welcome ongoing preparations by the "Somaliland" Administration to hold long overdue presidential elections on 13 November 2017. The repeated delays in the holding of the elections have raised serious concerns and eroded the credibility of the democratization process in "Somaliland". I urge the authorities to ensure that there are no further delays in the holding of the presidential and the parliamentary elections.

92. AMISOM remains essential to ensuring security in Somalia in the medium term. I urge members of the Security Council to support the implementation of the recommendations of the African Union-United Nations joint review of AMISOM through the provision of adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to establish a credible trajectory towards eventual withdrawal of the Mission. If AMISOM were to leave in haste, or prematurely hand over responsibility to Somali security institutions, there would be a risk of reversing the progress made on security. The AMISOM transition should be organized and supported in a way that marks the end of the international security presence in Somalia without losing the security gains so painstakingly achieved over the past 10 years, while equal focus should be given to building the capacity of the national security institutions, with full Somali ownership.

93. I would like to reaffirm the continued support of UNSOS, within its mandate and resources, to AMISOM and the Somali national army. I urge the involvement of United Nations entities in the planning processes for military operations and a phased transfer of AMISOM security responsibilities to Somali security forces. I call for continued Member State support to replenish the AMISOM and Somali national army trust funds to ensure uninterrupted support.

94. Undoubtedly, the achievement of long-term security for Somalis will depend not just on military interventions, but also on the population's confidence in the Somali authorities' ability to ensure and safeguard local reconciliation and the rule of law, including the justice chain and its basic services. I welcome the continued engagement at the federal member state level, as well as by the Federal Government, to implement the new policing model, of which federalism is an essential element and which was strongly endorsed at the London Conference. I urge the Federal Government and the federal member states to swiftly reach political agreement on a justice and corrections model for Somalia, ensure timely implementation of the new policing model and extend local governance structures across Somalia.

95. While the worst has been averted, the threat of famine persists in the second half of the year. I remain extremely concerned about the humanitarian crisis, including the ongoing food insecurity due to deepening drought conditions and increasing malnutrition, displacement and inter-clan tensions. These factors could further weaken already vulnerable communities, and the situation is not expected to improve this year. I welcome the international community's continued generous support for drought-affected communities, as well as the efforts by Somalis to promote reconciliation between the affected clans. I urge the Somali authorities to find further constructive means for resolving disputes. I also call on the international community to provide additional funding to enable partners to sustain the current level of humanitarian response.

96. I remain concerned about the human rights situation in Somalia. The forced recruitment by Al-Shabaab of over 200 children and the abduction of 100 clan elders in Galmudug is alarming. The group's tactics and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and its restriction of humanitarian access in areas under its control are reprehensible.

97. I am concerned about the growing number of cases of sexual violence, and especially about emerging patterns that indicate that many sexual assaults take place in settlements for internally displaced persons. Fearing reprisal, many survivors do not report being sexually assaulted, and, while the provision of medical services to survivors appears to have improved, it remains an area of major concern.

98. I am also concerned about the ongoing lack of accountability for targeted killings of delegates who participated in the 2016 electoral process. I call for investigations into such crimes and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

99. I welcome the fact that all of the children captured in Puntland in March 2016 have finally been released. I urge the Puntland authorities to continue to meet their commitments to overturn the prison sentences against 40 of the children and to continue working with United Nations entities towards their reintegration in locations closer to their area of origin.

100. The comprehensive approach to security agreed to by Somalia and its international partners is critical to the establishment of lasting peace and security in Somalia. I urge the Federal Government and its international partners to expedite the delivery of coordinated support.

101. I thank the African Union, AMISOM, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the European Union, Member States, non-governmental organizations and other development partners for their continued support to the process of peacebuilding and state-building in Somalia. In particular, I thank the African Union for its continued strategic partnership with the United Nations in Somalia. I pay tribute to AMISOM and Somali security forces for the sacrifices they continue to make in Somalia in the interest of long-term peace and stability in the country and beyond.

102. I pay tribute to my Special Representative, Michael Keating; my two Deputy Special Representatives and the staff of UNSOM; the Head of UNSOS and his staff; and the staff of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes engaged in Somalia for their continued hard work under challenging conditions.